Scam in Import of Pulses

102. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scam amounting to Rs. 7.72 crores in State Trading Corporation (STC) relating to import of pulses;

(b) if so, is it due to procedural discrepancies or vested interest of some STC officials;

(c) whether investigations have been launched and the culprits books and suitably punished;

(d) whether similar scams occurred during 2004 and 2005 with similar *modus-operandi;* and

(e) the steps taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Since the matter is under investigation by CBI, till CBI gives its findings, no conclusions can be drawn regarding the propriety of the actions of STC or some of its officials. As far as reimbursement of losses is concerned, Government had provided for the same only during 2007 and not during the earlier periods.

Export of Iron Ore

103. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of exports of iron ore to the respective importing countries, including China, during the last three years, indicating value and revenue on account of duty/cess levied on these imports;

(b) the details of volume of coal imported from various countries showing annual volume, percentage of total imports and duty levied by respective importing countries, including China;

(c) whether import of fruits and vegetables from India stands barred/restricted in various countries, including China;

(d) whether the issue was discussed during his recent visit to China in the Prime Minister's delegation; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?